

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life
Held on September 28, 2001
AD 121 10:00am Loyola Campus

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. P. Blais, Ms C. Costello, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Me P. Frégeau, Mr. A. Gagnon, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. R. Luppicini, Ms O. Maibroda, Ms G. Pagé, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms B. Stuart, Mr. H. Zarins, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms C. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms N. Ngoya, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. M. Nimchuk

ABSENT: Mr. A. Igdebeli, Mr. R. Al-Hadad, Ms J. De Cubellis, Mr. J. Brisebois

GUESTS: Ms A. Ghadban, Ms C. Fortier, Mr. A. Mohammadi

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that Mr. Patrice Blais had tabled a Notice of Motions which was included in the documents distributed at the meeting. He asked that this item be added as point 8.2 under New Business.

A motion to approve the revised agenda was carried unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert welcomed everyone to Council. As there were new faces at the table, he asked that Council members introduce themselves.

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the CCSL mandate which had been distributed previously. He felt it was important to understand that CCSL was a parity committee that normally operates on consensus. A vote is taken if warranted. Although Roberts Rules of Order is generally followed, in order to keep debate going, it is not stringently applied. He also explained that the permanent observers are representatives from key service areas in the university who can provide information on issues relating to student life. Permanent Observers are non-voting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FORM THE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2001

A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Update on the Student Services Professional Day: Mission Statement

Dr. Boisvert said the Student Services Professional Day was very successful and a good chance for students, staff and faculty to interact in an informal setting. Dr. Boisvert asked Mr. Luppicini to give an update. Mr. Luppicini informed Council he was part of the committee formed to revise the mission statement based on the input given on the day. He said the committee has made progress and hoped to table shortly a revised mandate at CCSL.

4.2 Update on the increase in tuition for International Students (Me Frégeau)

Me Frégeau introduced Ms Claudette Fortier, Coordinator, International Students Office. Ms Fortier distributed a document outlining the fee increase for international students both in the privatized programmes and non-privatized programmes. Ms Pagé asked if the University or the government imposed the fee increase. Dr. Boisvert explained that the government sets non-privatized tuition fees. The University did not impose an increase to the government fee. With respect to privatized programmes, however, international students pay the full cost of the fees. Mr. Luppicini asked how and when the students were informed of the increase. Ms Fortier explained that her office upon hearing about a potential fee increase, sent out an email in the Spring to international students advising them of this possible increase. Ms Hedrich replied that Student Accounts was only officially notified in mid July. The first statement that was mailed to students after mid July contained a flyer informing students of the increase. As well, their website was updated in late August. Ms Fortier added that the John Molson School of Business wrote to all new and returning students advising them of the increase.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Boisvert explained that Student Services Directors provide written reports for their areas/services twice a year (December and May). In addition, at each CCSL meeting there is usually a brief presentation by one of the many services at Concordia. Dr. Boisvert indicated Ms Sue Magor, Director, Environment Health and Safety was to present at the cancelled April 2001 CCSL meeting. If Council had no objection, he suggested that Ms Magor be invited to speak at the October 23rd CCSL Meeting. There was no objection.

5.1 Student Services Year-End Statement 2000-2001

Dr. Boisvert spoke briefly about the year-end statement. He explained that 2000-2001 was the first year of the current 3 year approved budget cycle (2000-2003). Dr. Boisvert said that the small year-end deficit was due to year-end accounting adjustments by Financial Services. He drew Council's attention to the item described as Capital Reserve and explained that the allocation was for student initiated projects as approved by CCSL. He took the opportunity to thank his Directors for maintaining strong financial responsibility for their areas which enabled the student services fee to remain constant at \$6.90 per credit.

5.2 Recreation & Athletics Financial Statement 2000-2001

Dr. Boisvert explained that the Recreation & Athletics has their own fee of \$2.19 per credit. As well, R&A receives 21.6% of the government grant. Mr. Zarins explained that the year-end deficit was due to a shortfall in revenue. He explained that low turn-out to games, bad weather, etc all contributed to the lower revenue. As well, staff changes and a labour settlement were a big factor in affecting the year-end.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Ms Maibroda inquired whether the university offered French lessons to international students free of charge. She indicated that as many international students are faced with higher tuition fees, they seek employment. However, their lack of fluency in French is problematic for them. Ms Fortier said that the ISO office offers English conversation courses but explained the difficulties in organizing a French conversation group. However, she offered to provide an information sheet listing the various places that offer French courses. Although the Government offers French courses, international students may not be eligible.

Dr. Shaver took the opportunity to applaud the quick and positive response from Student Services with respect to the attack in United States. Dr. Boisvert replied the credit was due in large part to the efforts of Health Services, International Students Office, Campus Ministry and Counselling & Development. Ms Ngoya said that a letter of sympathy was mailed out by the Alumni Relations Office to our New York alumni.

Mr. Blais thanked Mr. Coté for extending the deadline for the Administration fee and Capital Campaign fee exemption. Mr. Coté replied that although his office supported the request to extend the deadline, the

decision was made by Financial Services and University Advancement. Mr. Blais said that most international students qualify for the exemption. In order to speed up and streamline the refund process, he asked if it would be possible to exempt international students automatically. Mr. Coté felt that out of equity it was important to apply the rules equally. He agreed that international students often demonstrate a higher need. However, those students who are not accepted for a refund may feel they have not been treated equally. However, he appreciated Mr. Blais' concerns and agreed to put the suggestion forward to the appropriate body to see if they would be prepared to review it. He also suggested that perhaps the refund procedure could be simplified for international students. Mr. Blais asked if there were statistics available on the international students who applied. Mr. Coté agreed to report back on this issue at the October 23rd CCSL meeting.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Mr. Côté confirmed that the Board has had their first meeting of the year. There was a call for nominations to fill the student vacancies. These vacancies were filled by acclamation. The Board was apprised of plans to do a cyclical review of varsity sports. Soccer and Basketball (Men's & Women's) will be reviewed using the guidelines approved by CCSL. Mr. Zarins spoke briefly about the exciting plans for the Fitness Centre which will be part of the new Engineering & Computer Science Building. Ms Pagé asked if there was student representation with respect to these plans. Dr. Bosivert replied he had a chaired a committee that looked at student space in new buildings and he confirmed that the plans for these buildings have student space needs as an important consideration. Ms Stuart agreed and added that in her experience with respect to student space, input from the students has been solicited.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Appointments to CCSL Committee

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the distributed document detailing the compositions of the 3 CCSL sub-committees. Two of the committees – Student Initiated Project Allocation Funding Committee and the CCSL Special Projects Committee both offer funding for student projects. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council had any objection if the two committee were to combine and form a committee called Student Project Funding Committee. After a short discussion Council felt the benefits of the proposed merger outweighed any possible problems. As the criteria for funding by the two

committees only varies slightly, it was felt that the new committee could deal with the allocations. The Chair of the committee can come back with a revised mandate if warranted.

The composition of the Student Project Funding Committee is as follows:

Dean of Students as Chair (or his delegate)

3 undergraduate students

1 graduate student

The undergraduate students appointed to this committee for 2001-2002 are: P. Blais, G. Pagé, B. Hamideh. The graduate student is: R. Luppicinni.

8.2 Notice of Motions

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the Notice of Motions distributed at the meeting. In order for Council to have time to read the motions properly, Dr. Boisvert suggested it would be prudent to defer any formal ratification of the motions to the October CCSL meeting. Today, Council would move into a "committee of the whole" in order to have an open discussion. However, no motions would be put forward.

Mr. Coté moved, seconded by Mr. Blais, for Council to move into a committee of the whole.

The motion was carried unanimously

Motion #1 – Poster Policy

Mr. Blais briefly explained the posterizing issue from the student's point of view. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that it was his office – unfortunately – that had the responsibility of administering the poster policy. He said the issue was still on going between his office and the CSU. He informed Council that Mr. Ali Mohammdi, the new Student Affairs Coordinator, was in the process of revising the Poster Policy. Mr. Mohammdi would provide the student associations with a copy of the revised policy for their input and reactions before the October CCSL meeting.

Motion #2 – Composition of CCSL

There was concern expressed by several members of Council that as the current system was respected and worked well, there was no reason to suggest a change would be an improvement. Me Frégeau indicated that if Motion #2 was meant to reduce the role of the chair, it had the opposite effect. Contrary to the current spirit of Council, the proposal to have a rotating chair would necessitate the participation of the chair in debates. Also in order to maintain parity between students and staff, the chair

would have to vote. Mr. Côté felt if the chair had a vote, the neutrality of the chair would be compromised. Council was also informed that in the past twenty years, the chair has never had to cast a vote.

Motion #3 – Recognition of Student Participation in University Governance

Mr. Blais reiterated his concern that student participation should be recognized and rewarded. Council was in total agreement. Mr. Zarins asked if student athletes could be considered along with students who participate in university governance. Some of the concerns expressed were:

6. attendance regulations – how do we keep track
7. what constitutes a valid excuse for missing a meeting
8. Ms Toscano raised certain concerns and restrictions with the insertion of a notation on the transcript.
9. what about other committees/councils with student representation not indicated in the motion
10. different committees have different workloads and expectations

Dr. Jans asked if CCSL had not prepared and approved a report on this very issue. He said this report had dealt with criteria, logistical problems and the many concerns expressed by Council at the time. Dr. Boisvert affirmed that there was a report approved by CCSL in May 2000. However, implementation of the program had got bogged down at higher levels. Me Frégeau felt that endorsing this motion at this point in the process would be fruitless. He felt that if the motion were to be accompanied by a revised report, there might be a more favourable reaction. A copy of the Report to CCSL of the Committee on Student Participation in University Governance as well as excerpts from the minutes that dealt with the discussion and approval of this report will be sent to CCSL members before the October 23rd meeting.

Motion #4 – Status of T. Keefer & L. Marouf

Me Frégeau pointed out that CCSL is an advisory body to the Board of Governors. He also informed Council that BOG had recently passed a vote of confidence for the Rector. He was not sure how appropriate it would be to submit a motion to BOG on this same issue.

Mr. Blais said he would take the comments of Council into consideration. He will forward copies of any revisions to the motions to the secretary of CCSL for distribution.

9. NEXT MEETING: October 26, 2001 10:00am AD 131 (Loyola)

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Costello and seconded by Dr. Jans.

The Motion was carried unanimously